

News Release

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RPU rolls out green carpet for Public Power Week

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Riverside residents may never celebrate Public Power Week as zealously as...well, Groundhog Day.

But to customer-owned Riverside Public Utilities, the Oct. 6-10 occasion is an ideal chance to let residents know about their own utility company.

"No one marks it on their calendar, but those in the power business know when it's coming," said Christine Spahr, customer service manager. "It's also an ideal way to celebrate National Customer Service Week, the same week. Our customers are the owners of the utility, so excellence in customer service is extremely important at RPU."

Riverside is one of 2,000 local public utilities across the nation that annually celebrates Public Power Week, according to the American Public Power Association. There are approximately 107,000 metered power customers in the City of Riverside.

Customers who go during the week of Oct. 5 – 9 to Utilities Plaza, 3460 Orange Street, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., or to the Customer Resource Center, 3025 Madison Street, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., will receive a green shopping bag and a RPU Owner's Manual. The manual is a recent RPU publication that outlines the most-requested information about the utility – from how to read the meter to rebate programs.

"The owner's manual is an easy-to-read reference for the owners of RPU -- our customers," said Dave Wright, general manager of RPU. "It's a lot of fun to read and answers frequently asked questions from customers including: information about water and electric rates, better service reliability and conservation rebate programs designed to save them water, energy and money.

"Everywhere I go I see our green shopping bag," he continued. "It's durable, easy to store, holds a lot and it's free. Best of all, it conserves our natural resources unlike plastic or paper bags. Why would you not have one?"

According to The Wall Street Journal, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. An estimated 12 million barrels of oil is required to make that many bags. The petroleum in 14 plastic bags is enough to power a car for a mile.

For more information on the five-day manual-and-bag offer, call (951) 826-5485.

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 107,000 metered electric customers and 63,400 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

www.GreenRiverside.com

www.BlueRiverside.com